

REMARKS

In the non-final Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a) as being anticipated by and unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,263,064 to O'Neal et al. ("O'Neal"), and indicates claims 3-17 and 20-23 are allowable.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, and 18, are amended to improve form, and claims 3 and 20 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 2, 4-19, and 21-23 are pending.

Claims 1, 2, 18, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a) as being anticipated by and unpatentable over O'Neal. While not acquiescing in the Examiner's rejection, but simply to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 18 to include features previously recited in claims 3 and 20, respectively, which the Examiner identified as allowable. Thus, Applicants submit that amended claims 1 and 18 are patentable over O'Neal.

Claims 2 and 19 depend from claims 1 and 18, respectively, and are, therefore, patentable over O'Neal for at least the reasons given with respect to claims 1 and 18.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 18, and 19 based on O'Neal.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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